

Amendment
Serial No. 10/634,700

Docket 5000-1-438

REMARKS

Reconsideration of all grounds of rejection in the Office Action based upon the following amendments, and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claim 1 stands objected to for informalities. In response, applicants have corrected the improper spacing indicated in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground for objection.

Claim 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sala et al. (US 2003/0117998) and further in view of Rothenberg (US 5,432,850).

Claim 1, as amended, now recites a method for transmitting security data between an OLT (Optical Line Termination) and a destination user in an EPON (Ethernet Passive Optical Network) system having a plurality of ONUs (Optical Network Units) connected to a plurality of users and the OLT the method comprising the steps of, *inter alia*, creating a transmission frame comprised of a an ONU ID field, wherein the ONU ID field includes a group ID bit field, a logical link ID field and a security ID field, said ONU ID field configured to provide a virtual group ID for a plurality of entities controlled by a single ONU.

Supports for the amendments to the base claim are found in the drawings and the specification (FIG. 3 and page 10, line 2-12 and page 11, line 17-22 to page 12, lines 1-5.

In contrast, Sala discloses as illustrated in FIGs. 3a and 3b a PON tag control information field of a frame including a tag identifier (TID) field 306 which only

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performs a filtering operation (Page 1, paragraph [0012]. Therefore, Sala fails to suggest or teach a method step related to a ONU ID field, wherein the ONU ID field includes a group ID bit field, a logical link ID field and a security ID field, said ONU ID field configured to provide a virtual group ID for a plurality of entities controlled by a single ONU, as claimed in the amended base claim.

Similarly, in regards to Rothenberg, as illustrated in FIG 2B, a data frame is encrypted to include an address check sequence 26, an encrypted source address sequence 28 and an encrypted data sequence 30. Rothenberg fails to teach suggest or teach a method step related to a ONU ID field, wherein the ONU ID field includes a group ID bit field, a logical link ID field and a security ID field, said ONU ID field configured to provide a virtual group ID for a plurality of entities controlled by a single ONU, as claimed in the amended base claim.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited reference. A notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues, which may be best, resolved by telephone communication, please contact Applicant's undersigned Attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Cha
Registration No. 44,069


By: Steve Cha
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,069

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Mail all correspondence to:

Steve Cha, Registration No. 44,069
Cha & Reiter
210 Route 4 East, #103
Paramus, NJ 07652
Tel: 201-226-9245